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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

SECURITY COUNCIL

OPEN DEBATE ON LINKAGES BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND ORGANIZED CRIME

STATEMENT BY MS. MYRIAM OEHRI

SECOND SECRETARY

Mr. President,

The links between transnational organized crime and terrorism have been recognized by the General Assembly in the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its Protocols, among others. The Security Council has also acknowledged this complex nexus by adopting relevant resolutions, including resolution 1373 (2001). Enhancing cooperation with relevant actors at all levels and strengthening the capacities of law enforcement and counterterrorism agencies is indispensable for our ability to effectively prevent and combat the numerous forms of transnational organized crimes that are linked with international terrorism.

Mr. President,

A particularly cruel crime is modern slavery and human trafficking. Worldwide, over 40 million people live in conditions of slavery – the majority are women and girls. An estimated 150 billion US dollars in revenue are generated every year by forced labor alone. A recent report by the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee highlights how human trafficking has increasingly become a tool for terrorist groups. Human Trafficking can be both a tactic of terrorism and a source of terrorism financing: It can be used to spread terror, intimidate populations, institutionalize sexual slavery

and incentivize recruitment. And it can be used as source of revenue, for instance when captives are sold in open markets or online auctions, and used as an instrument to secure ransom or rescue payments.

Mr. President,

This Council has recognized that human trafficking can constitute war crimes and has listed human traffickers under the Libya sanctions regime. We continue to support a more consistent practice in this regard and encourage further discussion within the Council, including on a possible thematic sanctions regime. We furthermore applaud the adoption of Security Council resolution 2331 (2016) which calls upon Member States to increase cooperation among law enforcement and regulatory actors, as well as the private sector, to help identify and detect suspicious financial activity related to trafficking in persons that finances terrorism. Responding to this call, Liechtenstein, together with Australia and the Netherlands, with Secretariat support by the United Nations University, has launched a Financial Sector Commission (FSC) against Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking – also known as the “Liechtenstein Initiative”. The Commission, which consists of stakeholders from retail banks, hedge funds, global regulators, institutional investors, survivors, UN agencies and the anti-slavery movement, has been designing measures in the areas of sustainability and innovation, responsible lending and investment, as well as compliance and regulation to equip the global financial sector in addressing modern slavery and human trafficking. We thank the Government of the Netherlands for hosting the fourth and last thematic consultation of the FSC at the end of June on topics including sanctions, financial sector cooperation and responsible business, which will further inform our response to modern slavery. The final product of the Commission will be presented in the margins of the high-level week on 27 September in New York. The effective implementation of the measures identified by the Commission will be essential in contributing to the fight against modern slavery and human trafficking, including when committed by terrorist groups. The United Nations and this Council in particular, in addition to other international organizations, bodies and entities, will be crucial platforms to that end.

Mr. President,

Curtailling the link between international terrorism and organized crime also means addressing corruption in all its forms. Both petty and large-scale corruption hinder millions of people every day from fully enjoying their human rights in areas such as healthcare, social services and justice. They deprive young people of economic opportunities, fuel irregular migration, offer fertile ground for crimes and foment the grievances and conflicts that give rise to terrorist groups. With its comprehensive approach, encompassing prevention, criminalization and law enforcement, international cooperation and asset recovery, the UN Convention Against Corruption provides a legal basis to address corruption in its many facets. The UNTOC furthermore calls upon States Parties to adopt legislative, administrative or other effective measures to promote integrity and to prevent, detect and punish the corruption of public officials. Liechtenstein is committed to fully implement relevant conventions and to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, as contained in SDG 16. We cannot underline enough that the achievement of peaceful, just and inclusive societies depends on the successful eradication of corruption.

I thank you.